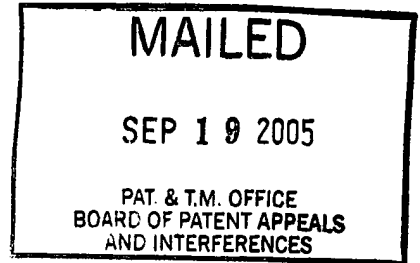


UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES



Ex parte ROBERT B. ELDRIDGE, BRUCE B. RANDOLPH,
and RICHARD L. ANDERSON

Application No. 10/062,858

ORDER RETURNING UNDOCKETED APPEAL TO EXAMINER

This application was received electronically at the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on July 13, 2005. A review of the application has revealed that the application is not ready for docketing as an appeal. Accordingly, the application is herewith being returned to the examiner. The matters requiring attention prior to docketing are identified below:

A review of the file indicates that appellants filed the Appeal Brief of December 6, 2004 using the format set forth in 37 CFR § 1.192(c). However, 37 CFR § 1.192 was abolished on September 13, 2004, and replaced by 37 CFR § 41.37(c). Accordingly, the Appeal Brief filed on December 6, 2004 does not comply with 37 CFR § 41.37(c).

37 CFR § 41.37(c) states:

(c)(1) The brief shall contain the following items under appropriate headings and in the order indicated in paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(x) of this section, except that a brief filed by an appellant who is not represented by a registered practitioner need only substantially comply with paragraphs (c)(1)(I) through (c)(1)(iv) and (c)(1)(vii) through (c)(1)(x) of this section:

(v) *Summary of claimed subject matter.* A concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, which shall refer to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters. For each independent claim involved in the appeal and for each dependent claim argued separately under the provisions of paragraph (c)(1)(vii) of this section, every means plus function and step plus function as permitted by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, must be identified and the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function must be set forth with reference to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawing, if any, by reference characters.

(vi) *Grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.* A concise statement of each ground of rejection presented for review.

(ix) *Evidence appendix.* An appendix containing copies of any evidence submitted pursuant to §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 of this title or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and relied upon by appellant in the appeal, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered in the record by the examiner. Reference to unentered evidence is not permitted in the brief. See § 41.33 for treatment of evidence submitted after appeal. This appendix may also include copies of the evidence relied upon by the examiner as to grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal.

(x) *Related proceedings appendix.* An appendix containing copies of decisions rendered by a court or the Board in any proceeding identified pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section.

A review of the application indicates that the following appropriate sections are missing from the Appeal Brief of December 6, 2004:

1) "Summary of claimed subject matter" as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(v);

2) "Grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal", as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(vi);

3) "Evidence appendix", as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(ix); and

4) "Related proceedings appendix", as set forth in 37 CFR § 41.37(c)(1)(x).

A substitute brief that is in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37(c) is required. For more information on the Board's new rules see the web page entitled More Information on the Rules of Practice Before the BPAI, Final Rule at:

<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/dcom/bpai/fr2004/moreinfo.html>.


Accordingly it is

ORDERED that the application is returned to the Examiner to: 1) hold the Appeal Brief of December 6, 2004 defective; 2) for applicants to file a substitute Appeal Brief in compliance with 37 CFR § 41.37; 3) for the examiner to consider the substitute Appeal Brief, and if necessary, vacate the Examiner's Answer mailed

January 12, 2005, and issue a new Examiner's Answer; and 4) for such further action as may be appropriate.

It is important that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences be informed promptly of any action affecting the status of this appeal (i.e., abandonment, issue, reopening prosecution).

BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

By: 
Frances C. Han
Program and Resource Administrator
(571) 272-9797

FCH/tdl

Richmond, Hitchcock, Fish & Dollar

P.O. Box 2443

Bartlesville, OK 74005